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Why We Need Consolidated Interim Storage (CIS) Facilities

Even if the final depository at Yucca Mountain opened today, its legal maximum limit of 70,000 tons of Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) could not accommodate the 79,000 tons of SNF waiting at reactor sites for removal and disposal.

Human error, environmental and terrorist risks demand a safer means of monitoring the nation's abandoned SNF away from populations and environmental hazards.

The SNF at reactor sites can't be moved off-site until the fuel is put in dry canisters and placed in an on-site canister storage system.

Many of the nation's dry canisters must be monitored above ground for 20 to 60 years for cooling purposes before they can be placed in deep geological storage. They could be transported to a CIS Facility by truck or rail for that above-ground waiting period.

Two private initiatives for CIS facilities are in the NRC licensing process and could begin accepting dry canisters by 2021 (WCS Andrews Co. TX) or 2025 (ELEA, eastern NM).

Why Federal Legislation like Congressman Darrell Issa's Bipartisan Bill H.R 474 "The Interim Consolidated Storage Act of 2017" Is Necessary

The DOE cannot by law send commercial SNF to interim storage until the Nuclear Act of 1982 is amended.

HR 474 gives priority to moving stranded SNF at shut down reactors while current law gives priority to moving SNF stored at active reactors. HR 474 would change the queue of the Standard Contract and allow the DOE to remove dry canisters from closed sites and place them in a CIS facility ahead of SNF kept in dry storage at hot reactors sites.

The taxpayer is responsible for the cost of all storage of the nation's 79,000 tons of SNF. HR 474 changes the financing system by applying the interest generated from the \$36 billion accumulated in the Nuclear Waste Fund to pay for consent-based CIS of the SNF. Currently the nuclear utilities sue the Federal government to repay their costs for storing it on site.

Without HR 474, the NRC licensing of CIS Facilities in TX and NM as private initiatives could leave abandoned, stranded SNF dry canisters at decommissioned reactor sites for 300 years, according to NRC regulation NUREG 2157.